

# EARL F. HILLIARD

## REPORTS

7th Congressional District, Alabama

1314 Longworth HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515

### IN PERSPECTIVE . . .

Dear Friends:

*As the year 2001 comes to a close, new challenges still lie ahead and must be met in the 107th Congress. The tragic realities of September 11th will be etched in our hearts and minds forever. While many continue to look for ways to maintain their families, I am determined to achieve and maintain the highest standards in homeland security, education, labor and health care programs. In addition, I will work on other issues critical to the well-being and quality of life for my constituents. Finally, we must continue our debate to find solutions to the problems of crime and the environment. Highlighted here are some of the priority issues which this Congress has addressed.*

*Earl F. Hilliard*

### Birmingham Minister Delivers Prayer Before Congressional Leaders

I welcomed Rev. Walter Solomon, Pastor of the Mount Moriah Baptist Church (North Pratt, Alabama) at the September 25, 2001, opening of Session for Members of Congress.

It was truly an honor to have a man of Reverend Solomon's stature delivering the opening prayer. In light of the terrorist attacks, which occurred two weeks before Rev. Solomon prayed before Congress, he brought a sense of hope and patriotism to Congress for the day.

### COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY HONORING . . .

I have sent a letter to Postmaster General Bill Henderson, calling upon the U.S. Postal Service to issue a block of four first class stamps in the year 2003 honoring the children who were killed in Birmingham, Alabama on September 15, 1963. The letter was signed by 98 other Members of Congress.

To commemorate the "Four Little Girls," I asked Members of Congress to join me in requesting that a block of four first class stamps be issued on September 15, 2003, the 40th anniversary of the girls' martyrdom. The letter stated, "We believe that these stamps will be among the most popular ever issued by the Post Office. We hope, therefore, that these stamps will become a part of our great postal heritage and available as we commemorate them in the fortieth year of their deaths."

I know the families of each of these children and have spent almost 40 years grieving with the families and working to make

I have worked on legislation, projects, and at times, become involved in controversial issues in an effort to improve the quality of life for my constituents.”

## African Trade Bill

I was intensely engaged in the strategy to ensure passage of the African Trade bill/Caribbean Basin Initiative. This landmark trade legislation will significantly reduce the barriers currently encumbering trade with Sub-Saharan African and Caribbean countries. Increased trade with African and Car-

ibbean countries should translate into increased demand for American goods and services. Presently, the House is considering the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act, II (AGOA,II). AGOA,II is an attempt to redress weaknesses in AGOA, I.

From The

## AG FILES

### Hilliard Fights for Black Farmers

Nearly three years after a settlement was reached between Black farmers' groups and the Department of Agriculture to compensate the farmers for historic and present discrimination, the battle continues. Over this period of time, I have been fighting the Department over its perpetual delays, its constant 40% rejection rate, and its evident lack of care for

Black Farmers. There have been victories. Some black farmers have received money and the forgiveness of debts. In addition, the Office of Civil Rights in the Agriculture Department, abolished by President Ronald Reagan in 1983, has been reinstituted. I am continuing to monitor the progress of the settlement. There is still much work to be done.

## Farm Bill Passes House

### Hilliard Amendment Brings Help for Black Farmers and Colleges

In the Farm bill which has been passed by the House, I was able to increase the authorization for the 2501 Program from \$10 million to \$25 million. This money goes to minority and 1890 land grant colleges to provide assistance to minority farmers, both technically and in the use of government programs. This increase should significantly increase farming aid to those who need it most.

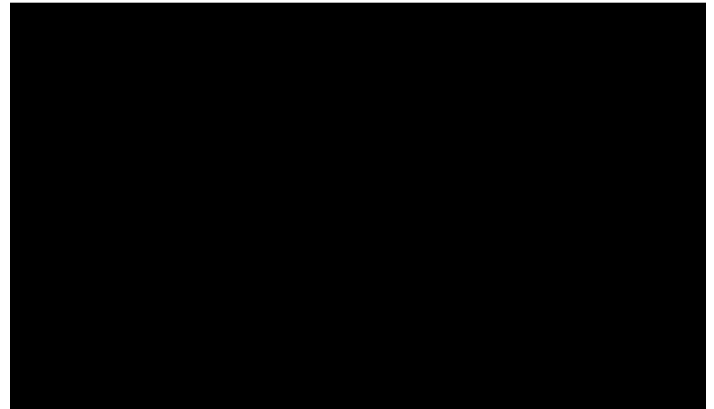
## MATHEWS POST OFFICE IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY REMAINS OPEN

Without warning and without a public hearing of any kind, the United States Postal Service (USPS) decided to close the post office in Mathews, Alabama. When I got word of this from the people there, I knew that I must fight to keep it open. Consequently, I contacted the officials at the USPS and after considerable negotiations, I was successful in saving the Mathews Post Office. I am very pleased that

## GEES BEND FERRY NEAR COMPLETION

The ferryboat that carried people across the Alabama River from Gees Bend to Camden in Wilcox County is coming back soon, due to an \$879,000 grant from the Federal Highway Administra-

tion. This follows two previous grants that I was able to attain in 1996 and 1997. The ferry will cut a school bus trip for children from two or three hours to less than twenty minutes.



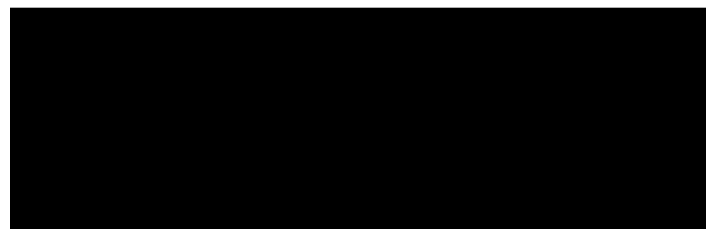
*Congressman Hilliard joins Ferry Builder in Gees Bend to discuss the progress and latest developments on the project.*

## Plans For Selma's Ethanol Plant Set To Fuel Black Belt Industry

I have gotten \$1.5 million appropriated by Congress to build an ethanol manufacturing plant in Selma. These funds will go to Pro-Gen Power, LLC, which will build and operate the plant. The plant will use corn, as well as other organic material, to produce ethanol for automobile fuel. Due to clean air requirements, the nation is moving to partial replacement of gasoline with ethanol (GE has announced the introduction of 3 new trucks which will use E-85--fuel with 85% ethanol and 15% gasoline). The plant will use 9 million bushels of corn annually to produce 25 million gallons of ethanol. Among other benefits, the plant

will provide a stable market for Alabama's corn farmers in a time of low prices. The plant also will produce as a by-product, Distillers Dry Grain Soluble (DDG), which is used as a food product for animals, including catfish. The only other by-product of the manufacture of ethanol will be carbon dioxide which can be piped to a catfish packaging plant to use for freezing. The plant will therefore be non-polluting.

These funds will go to producing clean, healthy fuel for our cars, stabilizing the corn market in Alabama, and supplementing the rapidly growing catfish industry in the state.



# Providing Opportunities: Interns, Pages, and Service Appointments

The U.S. House of Representatives Page Program is another way for young people to experience how our government works and our laws are made. Although Pages are nominated by a Member of Congress, they do not work in their Representative's office. Pages work as a team on the House Floor where their daily duties are administered by the Office of the Clerk. It is a competitive process to be selected for this honored position and I was proud to have one of my constituents selected. Rodericus Waller is a 17 year-old native of Selma, Alabama. During his five month stay in Washington as a Page, Rodericus attended the U.S. House of Representatives Page School and resided at the Page Residence Hall on the

Capitol Hill campus. Rod was a high school junior with a 3.87 GPA when he served as a Page. He was the first full-time Page from my district. Presently, Rod is a high school Senior at Amelia Johnson High School. After graduation, he hopes to attend the University of Alabama and study computer Science.

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***"Rodericus' serving as a Congressional Page is the best, practical experience that he could have in government."***

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***Congressman Hilliard congratulates Rodericus Waller for his outstanding performance as a Congressional Page.***

Each year I offer the Earl F. Hilliard Internship Program for qualified students who are either graduating seniors in high school or enrolled in college. The internship program permits undergraduate students to experience a Congressional office environment for a five-week session during the summer. Each session, several interns work in my legislative and district offices to learn firsthand the legislative process.

## C.A. Fredd Receives Partnership Grant

In an effort to use education to revitalize the community, the C.A. Fredd Technical College Campus of Shelton Community College received an Historically Black Colleges and Universities Program grant of \$300,000 to undertake capacity building activities.

The grant, issued by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, will fund the establishment of a community resource center, the creation of a public safety program on home safety, and the development of job training programs.

***Hilliard with students who completed his Summer Internship Program.***

## MILITARY ACADEMY NOMINATIONS

The Congressional Nomination Program affords me the opportunity to make available to students in the Seventh Congressional District of Alabama scholarships to Military Service Academies. Two Seventh Congressional District students in the graduating class

...nished his latest release from his Active Duty album, "No Stopping Us-USA," an uplifting patriotic anthem expressing the need for Americans to fight back and stay strong. The anthem was written by MC Hammer the evening of the terrorist attacks on America, September 11, 2001. It was largely filmed in Washington, D.C. I, along with several members of the United States Congress--Representative JC Watts (OK), Chair of the House Republican Committee, Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX), Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Corrine Brown (FL), Mel Watt (NC), Lacy Clay (MO), Diane Watson (CA) and former Representative Ron Klink (PA)--and staffers from the House and the Senate, participated in the filming of the video in a show of bi-partisan unity. The video also features President George W.

**Representative Hilliard joins MC Hammer to discuss how Congress is working through the aftermath of September 11, 2001.**

Bush, Bishop Eugene Sutton, D.C. Mayor Anthony Williams and children from Garfield Elementary School in Southeast Washington. The proceeds

from the "No Stopping Us-USA" single and video will benefit the families and victims of the 9/11 terrorists attacks.

## 76 YEAR-OLD MAN WANTS TO RE-ENLIST TO FIGHT FOR HIS COUNTRY

Patriotism comes at all ages, but for 76-year-old Calvin Wright of Toxey, Alabama, the time is now. On Wednesday, September 19, 2001, just eight days after terrorist launched attacks on both the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, Mr.

Wright, a 34-year veteran of the Armed Services, called to find out where he needed to go to re-enlist. He said, "I know my age doesn't work for me, but there are many things I can do." Mr. Wright told stories filled with patriotism and loyalty. I

was touched that a man of Mr. Wright's age is willing to stop everything to defend his flag, his country, you and me. It is absolutely unbelievable, and I commend and support him all the way.

## HILLIARD FIGHTS TO REBUILD RELATIONS WITH OTHER NATIONS

### *Supports American Business and Agriculture*

As we struggle against terrorism, we need to make all the friends we can make, and re-examine our relationships with other nations when difficulties in those relationships have nothing to do with the present conditions. Recognizing this need, I have introduced HR 3247, the American Renewed Diplomacy

meet the needs of the War against Terrorism.

HR 3247 will create a "fresh start diplomatic relations initiative." We need to put aside old fights and reorganize our relationships to defeat terrorism. Most of our unilateral sanctions date from the Cold War and are useless to America at this time.

This bill does not

The bill simply requires the President to begin discussions and negotiations to establish full diplomatic relations with the government of any nation with which we do not now maintain such relations, and with any other governmental entities. It does not require the President to actually recognize these nations, but to begin

## Report Terrorist Activity

Call the Department of Justice hotline at 1 (866) 483-5137 or visit the FBI tip website [www.ifccfbi.gov](http://www.ifccfbi.gov).

## Report Discrimination

Threats and discrimination against Arabs, Muslims and other American ethnic groups are inexcusable. Please report any such activity to the anti-discrimination hotline at 1-866-460-4357.

## Information on Anthrax

For more information on anthrax and how to handle a suspicious letter or package see [www.bt.cdc.gov](http://www.bt.cdc.gov) or call 1 (800) 311-3435.

## To Donate Blood

Call the American Red Cross at 1-800-448-3543.

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